

Public Act 103-0948 — Effective July 1, 2025

Implementing Liam's Law

Overview

Liam's Law updates Illinois' 2003 stillbirth certificate legislation to improve recognition, support, and care for families who experience stillbirth. Named after Liam, a baby stillborn at 40 weeks in 2016, the law addresses gaps in communication, documentation, and access to bereavement support.

What Hospitals Need to Do

Notify every eligible patient

Provide a written Liam's Law notice to every patient experiencing a stillbirth. The notice must explain the right to request a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth and how to obtain it.

Document the notice

Record in the patient's medical record that the Liam's Law notice was provided. Track this as a quality metric (Target: 100% documentation of all eligible cases).

Integrate into workflows

Review and update policies and procedures to adopt a standardized notice and documentation method. Ensure workflows trigger notification whenever a fetal death certificate is issued.

Educate staff

Prepare staff for the new documentation and compliance expectations. Collaborate with organizations like Gifts from Liam to train staff on trauma-informed, culturally responsive, bereavement care.

Why This Matters

From 2003–2023, over 18,000 stillbirths occurred in Illinois, yet **only 73 Certificates of Stillbirth were issued**. In that time, many parents asked providers about receiving a birth certificate, only to receive misinformation. **Liam's Law ensures every family is made aware of this opportunity to honor their child.**

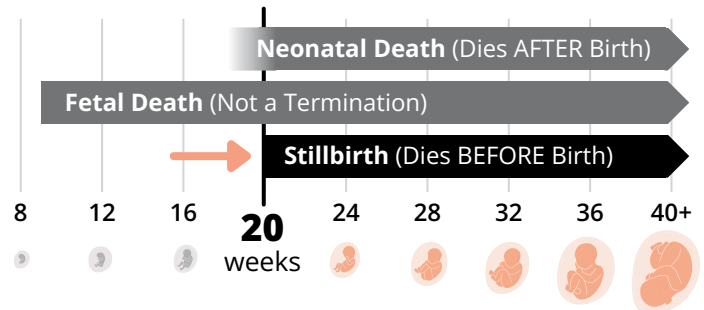
Liam's Law Highlights

Name change: Updates the title "Certificate of Stillbirth" to "Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth."

Gestational age threshold: Lowers eligibility from 26 to 20 weeks of gestation.

Hospital Licensing Act update: Requires hospitals to provide a Liam's Law notice to every parent experiencing stillbirth.

Every Stillbirth Patient Receives a Notice



What Are the Documents?

NEW FOR HOSPITALS

HOSPITAL RESPONSIBILITY



IDPH RESPONSIBILITY



PATIENT RESPONSIBILITY



For Help With Implementation

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